

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FAMILY VIOLENCE HOMICIDES A SUMMARY OF 2005 INCIDENTS



JOHN A. DANAHER III, Commissioner

JUNE 2007

State of Connecticut Family Violence Homicides 2005

			Victim			Offender		
	Police Department	Date of Offense	Age	Sex	Victim to Offender Relationship	Age	Sex	Weapon
1	**Troop D Putnam	9/17/2001	2 mos	M	Son	24	M	Asphyxiation
2	Willimantic	1/7/2005	5 mos	F	Daughter	20	F	Blunt Trauma / Other Object
3	*Troop E Lisbon	1/13/2005	25	F	Ex-Girlfriend	35	M	Gun
4	East Hartford	2/10/2005	1	M	Son	20	M	Shaken Baby
5	Bridgeport	2/23/2005	18	M	Boyfriend	23	F	Knife
6	Middletown	4/14/2005	51	M	Boyfriend	48	M	Blunt Trauma / Clothes Iron
7	Waterbury	5/16/2005	48	F	Live-In Girlfriend	45	M	Blunt Trauma / Hammer
8	*Troop A Sherman	5/29/2005	40	F	Live-In Girlfriend	39	M	Gun
9	*Ansonia	6/8/2005	22	F	Wife	31	M	Strangulation
10	*Middletown	6/15/2005	42	F	Wife	47	M	Gun
11	Norwalk	6/15/2005	24	M	Stepson	64	M	Gun
12	Waterford	7/1/2005	30	F	Girlfriend	34	M	Knife
13	Waterbury	8/21/2005	41	F	Ex-Girlfriend	40	M	Strangulation
14	Bridgeport	10/6/2005	39	F	Wife	40	M	Knife
15	Manchester	10/15/2005	48	F	Wife	50	M	Blunt Trauma / Other Object
16	Norwalk	10/19/2005	5 mos	M	Live-In Girlfriend's Son	19	M	Shaken Baby
17	*Danbury	10/20/2005	55	F	Wife	57	M	Strangulation
18	*West Hartford	11/21/2005	30	F	Ex-Girlfriend	37	M	Gun

*Murder-Suicide **Homicide became known to police in 2005

Family Violence Homicides 2005

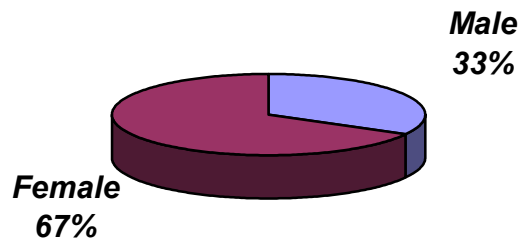
Summaries of Family Violence homicides occurring in Connecticut in 2005 are presented in this report. These homicides haven been matched against offenses reported via Uniform Crime Reports. Any homicide circumstance information provided is derived from newspaper accounts or other publicly available sources.

In 2005 there were eighteen family violence homicides. The count includes one previously unreported homicide from an earlier year (2001).

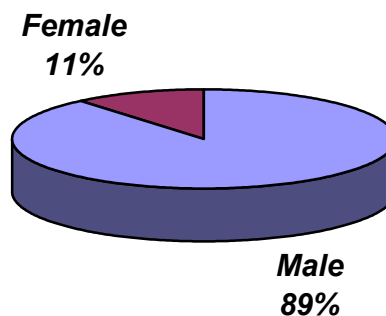
Of the eighteen victims, (12) 67% were females and (6) 33% were males. Of the eighteen offenders sixteen (89%) were males and two (11%) were females.

Of the eighteen homicides there were eighteen offenders, twelve (67%) offenders were arrested and six (33%) offenders committed suicide. In all six murder-suicide incidents all offenders were male.

Sex of Victims



Sex of Offenders



In 2005, family violence homicides were similar to the previous year, i.e., they were not closely divided between intimate and non-intimate partners. Intimate partners (spouses and girlfriend/boyfriends) were (13) 72% of the homicides and those involving other family household members or non-intimates (relative and non-romantic inhabitants) were (5) 28%.

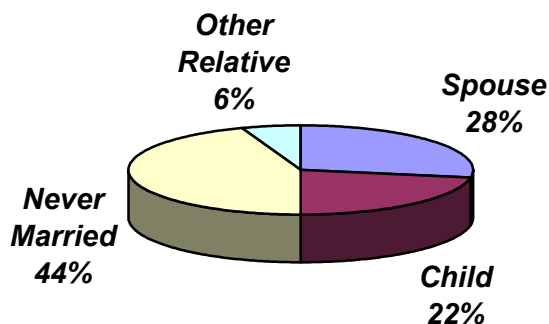
Intimates (13 Victims)

Of the Intimates, homicides involved five current wives (no-ex-wives) and no husbands. There were no victims who had a child in common with the offender in 2005. Eight homicides involved couples that were, or had been, in a dating or cohabitant relationship. "Dating" relationships are those in which the victim and offender did not live together or have a child in common. Prior to a legislative change to include dating couples effective October 1, 1999, dating relationships did not meet the criteria for inclusion as family violence.

Other Family (5 Victims)

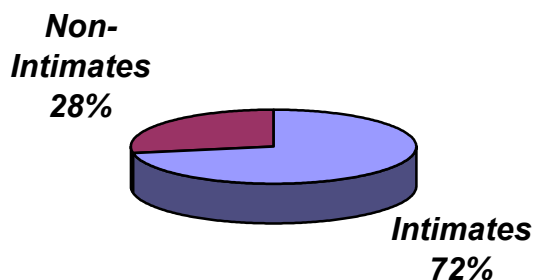
In 2005, of the Non-intimate victims, there were four children (same as last year). Two sons were killed by their father, one daughter was killed by her mother and one boy was killed by his mother's live-in boyfriend. Unlike last year, there were no parents killed in 2005. In the fifth non-intimate homicide, an adult male was killed by his stepfather.

Victim Relationship to Offender



INTIMATES: 72%

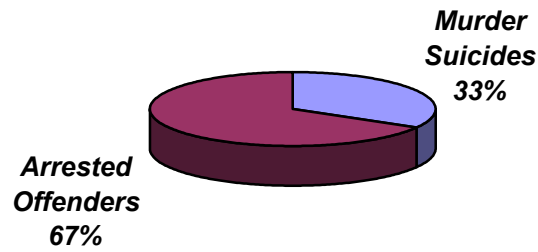
NON-INTIMATES: 28%



Six offenses were classified as murder-suicides. All of the offenders who committed suicide were male, four used a gun to kill themselves, one jumped to his death (severe head trauma), and one hanged himself (strangulation).

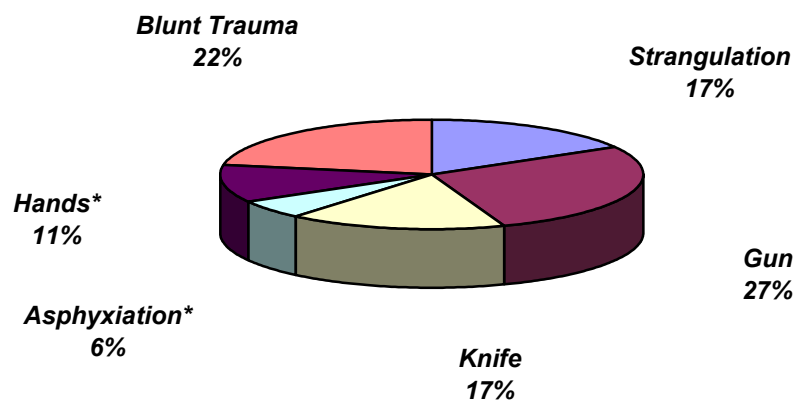
All six offenders that committed suicide were intimates; three husbands and two former boyfriends and one current boyfriend.

Murder Suicides



Weapons used to commit family violence homicides included: guns (5), knives (3), strangulation (3), blunt trauma (4), hands (2) and asphyxiation (1).

Weapons in Homicides

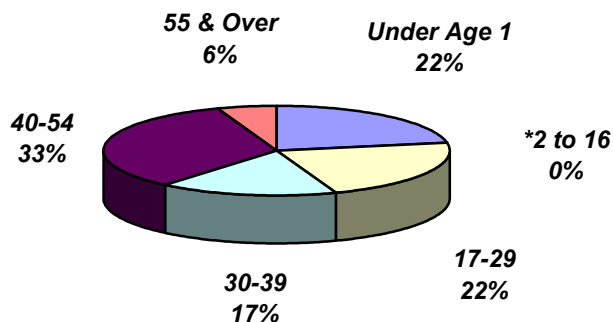


* "Asphyxiation" includes death by hands and "Hands" was death by shaking.

Almost two-thirds (61%) of the family violence victims were either a year or less old or over the age of 40. Four (22%) of family violence victims were children age one or younger. Seven (39%) of the homicide victims were older than forty.

Only seven (39%) of the family violence homicide victims were between the ages of two and thirty-nine. This age group commonly accounts for the majority of non-family violence homicide victims.

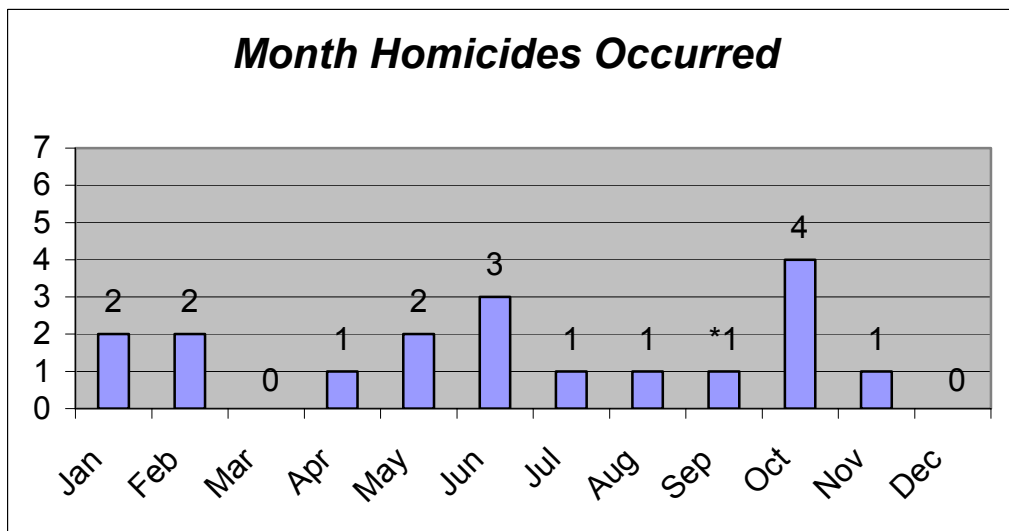
Homicide Victim's Age



**No homicide victims were between the ages of 2 and 16.*

Four homicides occurred in October 2005. Three homicides occurred in June 2005 – two on same day.

Month Homicides Occurred



**Includes September, 2001*

2005 FAMILY VIOLENCE HOMICIDES

Note: The following incident occurred in 2001 and not reported until 2005.

1.	9/17/01	PUTNAM	Victim: Male, Nine Weeks Relation: Son
----	---------	--------	---

Circumstances: A few years after a nine-week old Putnam boy died from injuries in his home, state police have arrested the boy's father. The boy's death was ruled a homicide four months after the baby died. The medical examiner found the cause of death was asphyxiation. Initially, the father told the newspaper that he discovered his son not breathing when he awoke from a nap, and that he and his wife were not responsible for their son's death.

Suspect: Father, 24. Charged with one count of first-degree manslaughter and one count of risk of injury to a minor.

January 2005

2.	1/7/05	WILLIMANTIC	Victim: Female, Five Months Relation: Daughter
----	--------	-------------	---

Circumstances: A five-month old baby died from a head injury consistent with blunt trauma. The baby was found in cardiac and respiratory arrest. The infant was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. The mother told investigators that she had, accidentally, banged her baby's head against a bathtub. She also stated that she was sliding the baby back and forth in the tub when she lost control of her daughter who hit her head on the corner of the tub.

Suspect: Mother, 20. Was arraigned on charges of first-degree manslaughter and risk of injury to a minor. She was held on a \$500,000 bond.

3.	1/13/05	LISBON	Victim: Female, 25 Relation: Former Girlfriend
-----------	----------------	---------------	---

Circumstances: Police responded to a 911 call from a father who said that a man was threatening his daughter with a gun. As police arrived they saw a man standing over a woman lying motionless on the ground. He killed himself after fatally shooting his former girlfriend. The father of the suspect said that his son had been distraught over his break-up and a medical report that he had a brain tumor.

Suspect Committed Suicide: Former Boyfriend, 35.

February 2005

4. 2/10/05 EAST HARTFORD Victim: Male, One Year
Relation: Son

Circumstances: A 20-year old man was charged in the death of his one-year-old son. Police went to his apartment on a report that a child had fallen out of his crib and was unresponsive. He initially told police that he had placed the child in a crib in a room with his brother who was almost three-years old. In another account he told police that the child wouldn't stop crying, that he tried everything to quiet the child and finally began shaking him. Son suffered serious head injuries and later died.

Suspect: Father, 20. Faces charges of first-degree manslaughter, two counts of risks of injury to a child and second-degree false statement. Prosecutors are considering charging offender with a capital felony which carries the potential for a death sentence. Bail was set at \$1 Million.

5. 2/23/05 BRIDGEPORT Victim: Male, 18
Relation: Boyfriend

Circumstances: Victim received a single fatal knife wound to the throat inside of an apartment building. The suspect had a verbal altercation with the victim in her apartment, which escalated into the stabbing. Upon arrival to the hospital, the victim subsequently expired as a result of the wound.

Suspect: Girlfriend, 23. Was arrested at the scene of the crime and was arraigned in court. Bail was set at \$1 Million.

March 2005 - No Family Homicides occurred in March 2005.

April 2005

6. 4/14/05 MIDDLETOWN Victim: Male, 51
Relation: Boyfriend

Circumstances: The victim's partly decomposed body was found dead in his room when police went to check on his well being. His head was smashed by a clothes iron and then he was strangled. Friends and co-workers had not heard from him for several days. The death was originally classified as suspicious while awaiting test results. Detectives found a note under the blanket covering the victim's body supposedly from the boyfriend with whom the victim had a stormy relationship. Both men were heavy drinkers who had an on-again and off-again relationship.

Suspect: Boyfriend, 48. Drifter, who was sometimes homeless fled to another state and was captured. Bail was set at \$2 Million.

May 2005

7. 5/16/05 WATERBURY

Victim: Female, 48
Relation: Live-in Girlfriend

Circumstances: A body was found after police responded to a complaint of a foul odor from a woman's apartment after neighbors and co-workers were concerned that they had not seen victim for ten days. The boyfriend gave police a statement indicating the couple had argued on the evening of May 16, and in a rage, he struck her in the head with a hammer. Neighbors stated that they frequently heard loud arguments between them.

Suspect: Live-in- Boyfriend, 45. Charged with murder and was held on a \$1 Million bond.

8. 5/29/05 SHERMAN

Victim: Female, 40
Relation: Live-in Girlfriend

Circumstances: A woman suffered multiple gunshot wounds, and the medical examiner ruled her death a homicide. Her boyfriend died of a single self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police were called to a house after caterers arriving with food found a man holding a gun to a woman's head. They then retreated and called police. The man and woman were found dead in the master bedroom.

Suspect Committed Suicide: Live-in- Boyfriend, 39.

June 2005

9. 6/8/05 ANSONIA

Victim: Female, 22
Relation: Wife

Circumstances: A newlywed couple ended up dead in a murder-suicide. When officers arrived, the offender was on the ground suffering from head trauma. He later died at the hospital. The wife was found in her bed on the first floor of the home. She was fully clothed and had no outward signs of injury. She died as a result of strangulation. The couple met online and maintained a long-distance relationship before marrying. Neighbors heard loud arguing recently. Initially, both deaths were labeled suspicious.

Suspect Committed Suicide: Husband, 31

10. 6/15/05 MIDDLETOWN

Victim: Female, 42
Relation: Wife

Circumstances: A husband waited with a semiautomatic handgun in his car until his wife arrived at a court house parking lot. He opened fire killing the mother of his two children and wounding the wife's divorce attorney. He raised the gun to his head and fired once more. According to friends, the couple's 17 years of marriage had turned nasty and a bitter legal battle began. The victim was taking a tape recorder to bed, while they still lived together. She was afraid he was going to hurt her.

Suspect Committed Suicide: Husband, 47.

11. 6/15/05

NORWALK

Victim: Male, 24
Relation: Stepson

Circumstances: A man was accused of fatally shooting his stepson and critically injuring his wife in a dispute believed to be a fight over music. The victim had a newborn daughter and was excited about being a dad according to friends. Supporters donated enough money to bury the victim in his hometown.

Suspect: Stepfather, 64. Charged with murder and attempt to commit murder. Held in lieu of \$1 Million bond.

July 2005

12. 7/01/05

WATERFORD

Victim: Female, 30
Relation: Girlfriend

Circumstances: A woman was found slumped over the steering wheel of a pickup truck in a shopping plaza. The boyfriend allegedly told investigators that he loved the victim and had known her for a month. He talked about marrying her, but she told him a week before her death that he terrified her and that the relationship was moving too quickly. She told a co-worker that she thought the offender was dangerous and had lied about his past. (The offender was convicted in the past of manslaughter for fatally slashing the throat of an elderly man at a rooming house). He referred to himself as "Jack the Ripper."

Suspect: Boyfriend, 34. Served time in the past for manslaughter. Was arraigned on murder charges. Bail was set at \$3.5 Million.

August 2005

13. 8/21/05

WATERBURY

Victim: Female, 41
Relation: Former Girlfriend

Circumstances: An ex-felon killed his former girlfriend after a fight outside of the house of one of his relatives. The offender left the victim's body in her van on a quiet street. Their history of domestic violence turned deadly.

Suspect: Former Boyfriend, 40. Charged with murder and held on a \$1.5 Million bond.

September 2005 - No Family Violence occurred in September 2005.

October 2005

14. 10/6/05 BRIDGEPORT

Victim: Female, 39
Relation: Wife

Circumstances: A 40-year old city man, his clothes splattered with his wife's blood, led police on a chase through the city before he crashed his SUV into a creek embankment. Police said he crawled out and blurted that he thought he just killed his wife. When police got to the house, they found a female cradled in the arms of her adult daughter. She had been stabbed multiple times in the upper part of her body. She was taken to the hospital where she died several hours later.

Suspect: Husband, 40. Charged with murder and other charges (motor vehicle) and held on \$500,000 bond for arraignment.

15. 10/15/05 MANCHESTER

Victim: Female, 48
Relation: Wife

Circumstances: A mother of seven was found dead in her home. Police received a call to check on the welfare of the home's occupants. No one answered the door. The adult daughter had been looking for her mother and asking neighbors. Neighbors said that they had never heard arguing. No weapon or item that had obviously been used as a weapon was found.

Suspect: Husband, 50. Was arrested and charged with murder, bail was set at \$1 Million.

16. 10/19/05 NORWALK

Victim: Male, 5 Months
Relation: Live-in
Girlfriend's Son

Circumstances: A baby boy was killed by his mother's boyfriend who had shaken him violently. The child died at a children's hospital. Initially the offender was charged first-degree assault and risk of injury to a minor after police investigated the child's injuries, and then upgraded to first-degree manslaughter when the baby died. The offender may face deportation.

Suspect: Mother's Live-in-Boyfriend, 19. Pleaded guilty to killing. Was charged with first-degree manslaughter and risk of injury and could face up to 30 years if convicted.

17. 10/20/05 DANBURY

Victim: Female, 55
Relation: Wife

Circumstances: A man strangled his wife before hanging himself. Family members believe it was an accident and that the man could not live without his wife and then hanged himself. The husband was arrested after a domestic dispute at the couple's home about two weeks before the incident.

Suspect Committed Suicide: Husband, 57.

November 2005

18. 11/21/05

WEST HARTFORD

Victim: Female, 30

Relation: Ex-Girlfriend

Circumstances: A man shot and killed his ex-girlfriend and then turned the gun on himself in a murder-suicide. Sources said she was killed just before he was to turn himself in to police on charges he harassed her. The body was discovered about two hours later after police called off a manhunt for the man who re-entered the home. His body was found in the same house.

Suspect Committed Suicide: Ex-Boyfriend, 37.

December 2005 - No Family Violence occurred in December 2005.

********END********